

# The Placer

A Voice of History

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## Director's Notes

*Jerry Rouillard*

### Heritage Education

This issue of *The Placer* focuses on heritage education, a topic near and dear to our hearts in the Placer County Department of Museums. Several years ago, when we convened a community based task force to help us draft our strategic plan; the group unanimously agreed that our mission was, first and foremost, heritage education. To be more specific, the Department's principal job was to teach people about the rich history of Placer County.

The Strategic Plan we developed from that process emphasizes heritage education, and our Department has since expanded our education programs to accommodate that emphasis. We have expanded our Living History program. We have created a program that provides elementary teachers classroom materials for teaching local history. We have instituted a Community Education program that invites adult and family participation, and we have

aggressively promoted group tours of our museums and local communities.

What all of this means is that the Placer County Department of Museums is committed to taking history beyond the walls of the museum. Teaching people about County history is the purpose of our Museums Department. It is not simply a by-product of museums visitation. Our exhibits and artifacts are the fundamental components of our education programs, but they are not the sum total of those programs. While they do provide a physical link to the past, the human and interactive process of interpreting the past is the program element that fulfills our commitment to heritage education.

Because education is most effective when it is a dynamic and truly interactive process, we invite suggestions for new program offerings, or comments on the ones we already have. If you have seen a program work somewhere else, let us know about it, and we will see if it might work here as well. We know darn well we're not the only ones with good ideas.♣

# Heritage Education

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## THE “WHYS” & “WHATS” OF HERITAGE EDUCATION

*Melanie Barton*

You may be asking yourself, “Why is Heritage Education important?” A better question may be “Is History important?” If you answer this question in the affirmative, then the importance of Heritage Education Programs becomes clear because it is our method of sharing the history of the area with the public. In the Department of Museums we have developed several programs that focus on making history come alive to Placer County residents and visitors.

Every spring hundreds of 3rd grade children visit the Bernhard Museum Complex for a day of **Living History**. The program offers teachers, parents and children the unique opportunity to experience life on a Victorian era farm in the late 1890s. The students cook biscuits on a wood stove; play games from the time period such as jacks and marbles; wash clothes the old fashioned way in a tub with a wash board; till the vegetable garden; and try their hand at leather working,

tinsmithing, and carpentry. This day is not only fun for those participating but the experience clearly demonstrates the similarities and differences between the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Another Heritage Education Program offered by the Department is **History in a Box**. The boxes, which can be checked out from the Office of Education Media Center, concentrate on the Gold Rush and California Immigration. They are designed for use by 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and address the curriculum with materials relevant to local, state and national history in the 1800s.



Last year **Community Education Classes** were offered for the first time. In the fall a series of classes, **From Acorns to Orchards**, was held on four consecutive Thursday evenings. The sessions focused on the rich heritage of our county from pre-gold rush to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Guest speakers, demonstrations and activities

entertained participants of all ages. Our **Summer Community Education Programs**, held on the last Sunday of the month from May through September, presented a variety of educational opportunities for the entire family. The first program was a docent led hike along the American River discussing early gold rush settlements. This was followed by an evening of music at the Bernhard Museum Complex in June. In July the topic was acorn processing and in September docents from the Forest Hill Divide Museum led tours of Old Town Foresthill.

**Docent led Tours** are another Heritage Education Program offered by the Department. Church, senior, scout and school groups all take advantage of this opportunity. In addition, a weekly one hour Walking Tour of Old Town Auburn begins at the Courthouse every Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy at least one of these programs in the past year. We plan to continue improving the existing programs and hope to create new ones. Your suggestions and ideas are always appreciated.♥

# Heritage Education Events

## Newcastle Fruit Shed Dedication

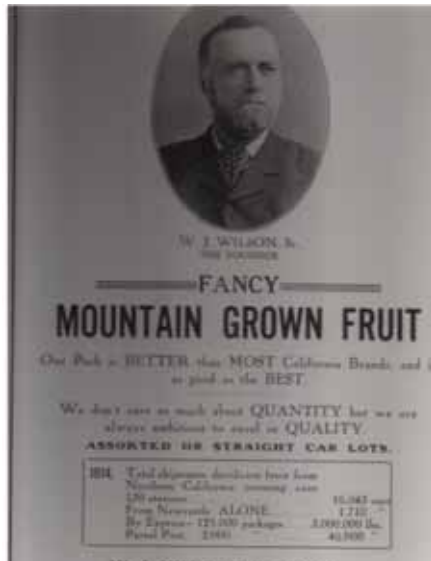
*Doris Viera*



The Placer County Historical Society will be dedicating a plaque at the Newcastle Fruit Sheds on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm.

In the 1860s, a few of the men who had given up mining around Newcastle and settled into ranching had found the soil and the climate to be exceptionally agreeable for growing a variety of fruits. In the 1870s, a market opened for providing fresh produce to the big population of miners working the Silver Mines in Nevada. With the railroad available to be used for shipping, Newcastle growers began shipping fruits to Nevada. It became a lucrative market, and that in turn prompted more people to start growing fruit. Once the shipping began and the fruit production increased, other

markets opened up, including a large one on the east coast. With larger quantities of fruit to be handled, it became more efficient to have a place to pack it near to where it was to be shipped. In the early 1870s, W.J. Wilson built the first fruit-packing house. Other fruit houses followed, including one built by George D. Kellogg, another pioneer in the emerging fruit industry. In the 1880s, Newcastle grew into one of the leading fruit producing regions of California. By 1900 there was a row of fruit houses; however, in July of that year, there was a disastrous fire that started at the Wilson fruit house and destroyed all the fruit houses, as well as, many other buildings in the central part of town.



Before the fire, the fruit houses (four in all) were separate, side by side and oriented longwise or east to west. Rebuilding after the fire brought the configuration now seen—one long building oriented north to south. The building was again partially burned in 1922. Reconstruction was swiftly done again as the fruit industry was the dominant economic force around which the community thrived. Newcastle's finest fruit production year was 1923, when 2,547 rail cars of

fruit were shipped to the eastern markets.

Please join the Placer County Historical Society in the celebration of the historic fruit sheds in Newcastle. If you have questions, call (530) 885-2797. ♦

## Maidu Interpretive Center Fall Cultural Classes

*Kris Stevens Bundgard*

Maidu Interpretive Center – Indian Museum and Nature Learning Center - offers Fall Cultural Classes for Adults: (pre-registration required)

- Carving Soapstone Pendants: Saturday, October 4 or November 15, 10am-12noon: \$14.
- Bead Making the Maidu Way: Saturday, October 11, 9am-12noon: \$21.
- Dance Whistles: Saturday, November 1, 9am-12noon: \$21.
- Petroglyphs By Night, Saturday, November 8, 7-9pm: \$10.
- Creating Soaproot Brushes: Saturday, November 22, 9am-12noon: \$21.

Please call (916) 772-4242 to register or for more information. You can also visit our website, [www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum) ♥



## Department Intelligence

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

*Melanie Barton*

The annual **Volunteer Appreciation Trip** for the Department of Museums Volunteers was held on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Eighty-four volunteers visited Gatekeeper's Museum, the Marion Steinbach Indian Basket Museum and Watson Cabin Living Museum in Tahoe City. This is just one way that we say "Thank you" to the many volunteers who contribute so much.



*Volunteers enjoy a boxed lunch in beautiful Lake Tahoe*

The next Department **Volunteer/Docent Training** class will begin on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. All the classes will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please call 530-889-6506 for additional information. ♥

### VOLUNTEER & DOCENT TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE FALL 2003

*All classes will be held on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
(unless otherwise noted).*

#### **September 27: Opening Session**

- Welcome and Introduction to Placer County & the Department of Museums
- Placer County Museums Docent Guild
- Placer County Historical Overview

#### **October 4: Museum Facilities & Introduction to Interpretation**

- Archives & Historical Research, Collections, Exhibit
- Preparation
- An Introduction to Interpretation

#### **October 11: Placer County Museum**

- Economic History of Placer County
- Exhibits

#### **October 18: Gold Country Museum**

- The Gold Rush & Mining History
- Geology
- Exhibits

#### **October 25: Bernhard Museum Complex**

- Bernhard Complex's Ties to Local History
- Victorian Culture
- Furnishings
- Living History Program

#### **November 1: Interpretation & Theme Development Old Town Walking Tour**

#### **November 1 - 8: Placement Interviews**

#### **November 8 - December 6: Working with a Mentor**

#### **December 6: Class Presentations**

#### **December 15: Holiday Party**

- Training Graduation



# Placer County Historical Organization News

## Placer County Historical Society's President's Message

*George Lay*

Did you know that there are 330 members in our society and 100 usually attend our bi-monthly general meetings?

However, like all organizations, there is an on-going group of dedicated members who attend the board meetings and help guide and conduct the business. The following are those people:

--Officers for the year 2003/04: Vice Pres., Addah Owens; Secretary, Bonnie Stokes; Treasurer, Al Stoll; Directors: Ralph Duncan, Jane Hamilton, Mike Holmes, Vern Krause, Jean Krause, Arlean Towne and George Williams.

--Committee Chairpersons: Membership, Barbara Burdick; Programs, Addah Owens; Landmarks and Historical Schoolroom, Doris Viera; Books, Donna Howell; Website, Barbara Van Riper; Historian/Archivist, Karri Samson; Oral History, Betty Samson; Photo Collection, Gene Scott; Carnegie Library Bldg., Wes Briggs; New Placer Co. Book, G. Lay;

--The following represent the society: Mike Holmes, Historical Advisory Board; Wes Briggs, Historical Organizations Committee; Museums Director, Jerry Rouillard, Placer County Museums. ♣

### New Members Welcomed

*Barbara Burdick,  
Membership Chair*

The Placer County Historical Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Carol Malmberg of Auburn  
Richard and Dorothy Peterson of Roseville ♦

### Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

*Addah Owens, Vice President*

**When:** October 2, 2003

**Time:** 6:30 pm, Dinner, 7:30 Program

**Where:** Veteran's Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn, CA

**Cost:** \$12.00

**Menu:** Chicken Marsala, Fettuccine noodles, vegetables, rolls, and dessert

**Mail Check to:** PCHS, c/o Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter Grade Road, Auburn, CA 95603

**Program:** Michael Coder will present the program, titled "Come easy, go easy." It is the story of Pike Bell, Auburn's most famous pocket Gold Miner and the mystery of his golden watch chain.

Alexander Owens "Pike" Bell came west to California in 1851 because "he saw the elephant." This is the story of what happened to Pike where he lived and died and what he did while in California. The program will include some excerpts from videotape interviews with people who were related to him or affected in some way by his life in Auburn.

Michael Coder is a Placer County educator having served ten years in public school administration and nineteen years as an elementary school teacher in Butte and Placer counties. He has been an active participant in the California Living History programs at Indian Grinding Rock SHP, Effie Yeaw Nature Center Park, Maritime Museum in San Francisco, and Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. He is the co-owner of Music and More Arts Academy and Theatre in Auburn. ♥

### Conference of California Historical Societies

Yolo County Historical Society is hosting the 2003 Conference of California Historical Societies, "Walk in the Footprints of Giants," September 26<sup>th</sup> through September 28<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy tours of the community and listen to special speakers.

For more information contact B.J. Ford at (530) 662-0952 or [bjford@pacbell.net](mailto:bjford@pacbell.net). ♣

## Placer County Historical Organizations

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Historical Advisory Board  
Sandra Elder, (916) 663-1088  
101 Maple St. Rm. 104  
Auburn, CA 95603

Roseville Historical Society  
Dean Moore, (916) 773-3003  
557 Lincoln St.  
Roseville, CA 95678  
[www.rosevillehistorical.org](http://www.rosevillehistorical.org)

Forest Hill Divide Historical  
Society  
Steve & Donna Coffman,  
(530) 367-3437  
5606 Maywood Dr.  
Foresthill, CA 95631  
[www.foresthillhistory.org](http://www.foresthillhistory.org)

Lincoln Highway Association  
Mary Salazar, (530) 367-2747  
PO Box 492  
Foresthill, CA 95631  
[www.lincolnhighwayassoc.com](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.com)

Placer County Genealogical  
Society  
Joyce House, (530) 887-2646 PO  
Box 7385  
Auburn, CA 95604  
[www.pcgenes.com](http://www.pcgenes.com)

Colfax Area Historical Society  
Helen Wayland, (530) 346-7040  
PO Box 185  
Colfax, CA 95713-0185  
[www.foothill.net/colfax/history](http://www.foothill.net/colfax/history)

Maidu Interpretive Center  
Kristie Stevens Bungard,  
(916) 772-4242  
1960 Johnson Ranch Drive  
Roseville, CA 95661  
[www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum)

Placer County Historical Society  
George Lay, (530) 878-1927  
PO Box 5643  
Auburn, CA 95604  
[www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org)

Golden Drift Historical Society  
Doug Ferrier, (530) 389-2617  
PO Box 20  
Dutch Flat, CA 95714-0020

Rocklin Historical Society  
Gaynor Morgan (916) 624-2355  
History Museum (916) 624-3464  
PO Box 752  
Rocklin, CA 95677-0752  
[www.rocklinhistory.org](http://www.rocklinhistory.org)

Loomis Basin Historical Society  
Alice Barnes, (916) 652-7844  
PO Box 2195  
Loomis, CA 95659-2195  
[www.ppgn.com](http://www.ppgn.com)

Friends of Griffith Quarry  
Shirley Patocka, (916) 663-3681  
PO Box 326  
Penryn, CA 95663-0326

Joss House Museum and Chinese  
History Center  
Arlean Towne  
PO Box 9126  
Auburn, CA 95603  
(530) 885-4850  
[oldcoyote@foothill.net](mailto:oldcoyote@foothill.net)

Newcastle Portuguese Hall  
Association  
Aileen Gage, (530) 885-9113  
PO Box 993, 690 Taylor Rd.  
Newcastle, CA 95658

### Artifact Highlight

Alycia Alvarez

In honor of the fruit shed dedication in Newcastle, I thought would highlight our wonderful reproduction fruit label collection. The Placer County Water Agency donated all the labels from an exhibit they presented.

From Pat Jacobsen's *Collectors Guide to Fruit Crate Labels*: Fruit and vegetable crate labeling began on the Pacific Coast in the mid-1880s and has flourished for over a century, an art form whose preservation was never intended. Labels pasted onto wood fruit crates were specifically designed to identify and "sell" the product and then be discarded with the empty crate. Thus, the fact that so many original labels still exist today is somewhat miraculous. ♦



## Calendar of Events

### September

- Sep 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm** Foresthill Divide Historical Society Business Meeting at the Foresthill Divide Museum. Contact (530) 367-2366.
- Sep 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting at the Loomis Library. Contact (916) 652-7844.
- Sep 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society General Meeting at the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library. Judy Dalziel will give a presentation on Handwriting Analysis. Contact (530) 887-2646.

### October

- Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am** Placer County Genealogical Society's Day Study Workshop at the LDS Church, 1255 Bell Road. Chuck Knuthson will give a presentation of Genealogy on the Internet. Contact (530) 887-2646.
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm** Historic Advisory Board Meeting. Location TBA. Contact (530) 889-6500.
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm** Loomis Basin Historical Society Meeting at the Loomis Library. Contact (916) 652-7844.
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm** Foresthill Divide Historical Society Potluck Meeting at the Foresthill Divide Museum. Contact (530) 367-2366.
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm** Placer County Genealogical Society General Meeting at the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library. Susan Jackman will give a presentation on the 10 mistakes that may keep you from finding your ancestors. Contact (530) 887-2646.